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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Klaus SOMMERMEYER, Klaus HENNING, Michael GORG & Thomas MAUL

Serial No.: (Not yet assigned)

Filed: (on even date herewith)

For: METHOD FOR THE CONTINUOUS PRODUCTION OF HYDROLYTICALLY BROKEN DOWN AND POSSIBLY SUBSTITUTED STARCH, USE OF HYDROLYTICALLY BROKEN DOWN STARCH AND DEVICE FOR PRODUCING SAME

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to the calculation of fees and the examination of the above-identified application, kindly amend the application as follows:

AMENDMENT

In the Claims:

1. Method for the continuous production of hydrolytically broken down starch derivatives that are possibly substituted, by converting with a hydrolysis agent in an aqueous medium and subsequent neutralization to stop the hydrolysis, [characterized therein that] wherein a solution or suspension that contains the starch or possibly substituted starch to be hydrolyzed is continuously conveyed through a reaction stage essentially free of mixing against the force of gravity in the hydrolysis step.

2. (Amended) Method according to claim 1, [characterized therein that] wherein the reaction stage has at least one tubular reactor [(24-28)] that has an inlet tube [(23)] disposed at the bottom and an outlet tube [(25)] disposed at the top when in the operative state.

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